

THE MAXX

TM

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image

TM

COMICS PRESENTS

THE MAXX

TM

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THREE WHOLE WEEKS
OF DIETING... COTTAGE CHEESE AND
FRUIT PLATES AND YOGURT...

...AND SHE'S
GAINED FIVE
POUNDS?

MAYBE THERE WAS SOME-
THING IN THE FRIDGE,
SOMETHING UNFATTEN-
ING... SOMETHING NICE...



• NOTHING EVER
HAPPENS TO ME.

• I MEAN I GET UP,
I GO TO SUMMER
SCHOOL FOR
STUPID ALGEBRA,
I WORK ON MY
CAR...NOTHING.

• LIKE TODAY, I'M LATE
FOR THIS CPR CLASS
I'M TEACHING FOR
EXTRA P.E. CREDIT
• AND I GOT TO STOP
FOR GAS AND IT'S
ABOUT A THOUSAND
DEGREES OUT. BUT
THAT'S NOTHING
SPECIAL!

• I JUST WISH
SOMETHING
WEIRD WOULD
HAPPEN...REALLY
CHANGE MY
LIFE UP.

1.19^{1/10}
1.29^{1/10}
2.39^{1/10}

SELF

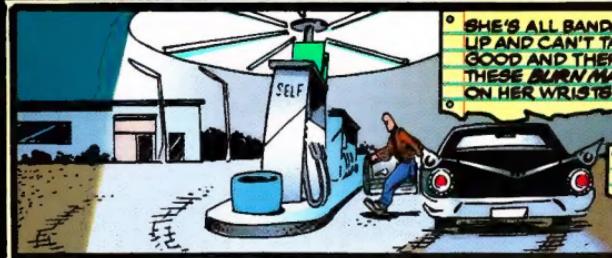
NO
SMOKING

PLAN
TAX
FEE



• NOT LIKE WHAT
HAPPENED TO
GLORIA, OF
COURSE.

• I WENT TO SEE HER
AT THE HOSPITAL A
COUPLE OF DAYS
AGO. THAT WAS
KIND OF GROSS.



• SHE'S ALL BANDAGED
UP AND CAN'T TALK
GOOD AND THERE'S
THESE BURN MARKS
ON HER WRISTS.

• MADE ME
FEEL BAD.

• SHE SAID
THEY THINK
THEY CAN
SAVE HER
FINGERS.

• MY DAD SAYS
IT HAPPENED
CAUSE SHE WAS
A TRAMP. BUT
I DON'T THINK
SO.

• THAT'S FUNNY. THERE'S
AN OLD WOMAN IN THAT
STATION WAGON WHO
LOOKS JUST LIKE MY
GRANDMOTHER.

• IN FACT, THEY
ALL DO. THEY
ALL LOOK JUST
ALIKE.

• THINGS JUST
HAPPEN IS
ALL, BUT NOT
TO ME.

• HUH...

• AND THERE'S A
BLACK TARP OVER
THE STATION.

• I NEVER
NOTICED
THAT.

• IT ALMOST
LOOKS
ALIVE!

• AND IT'S SLIPPING
DOWN, COVERING
THE STATION...

• WEIRD.





OH, I GET IT!
IT'S THAT
GLY'S CAPE!

THAT'S A
RELIEF!

I WAS
AFRAID I
BROKE IT!

THUD



'COURSE, NOW I GOT TWO
BIG GUYS, FIGHTIN', ON
THE HOOD OF MY CAR.

GIVE IT UP,
BTER LAPPIN!
YOU...GASP...KNOW
JULIE WINTERS
IS THE ONE I WANT!
SHE'S...WHOOZZ...
THE STRONG
ONE...

THE ONE
WHO PULLS
...HANT...
YOUR
STRINGS!

IT'S KIND
OF MEAT,
ACTUALLY.

UHHH...
WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

AND WHO
THE HELL
ARE
YOU?

WHUN!

YOU REALLY
DON'T REMEMBER
ANYTHING
IMPORTANT, DO
YOU, BR'ER
LAPPIN'?

I'M MR.
GONE!... A
STUDENT OF
THE MYSTIC
ARTS!

HEY!
PUT THAT
DOWN, OR
I'LL—

UNFORTUNATELY,
AN UNTALENTED
STUDENT, OR I
WOULDN'T HAVE
TO KEEP
SHOOTING
FOOLS LIKE
YOU!



KRATICHAA!

I THOUGHT
I SAW A WOMAN
IN THERE!

NOW SURRENDER,
HOPPING-BOY,
OR THIS CHARMING
YOUNG CHIPPIE
IS ADDED TO
MY SCORE!



CRUNCH

MY
HOSTAGE.
YOU KILLED
MY HOSTAGE!

CRASH

YUK!
LLEDMYH
STAGEYOUK
!LLEDMYHOST
AGEYOU!L
LED

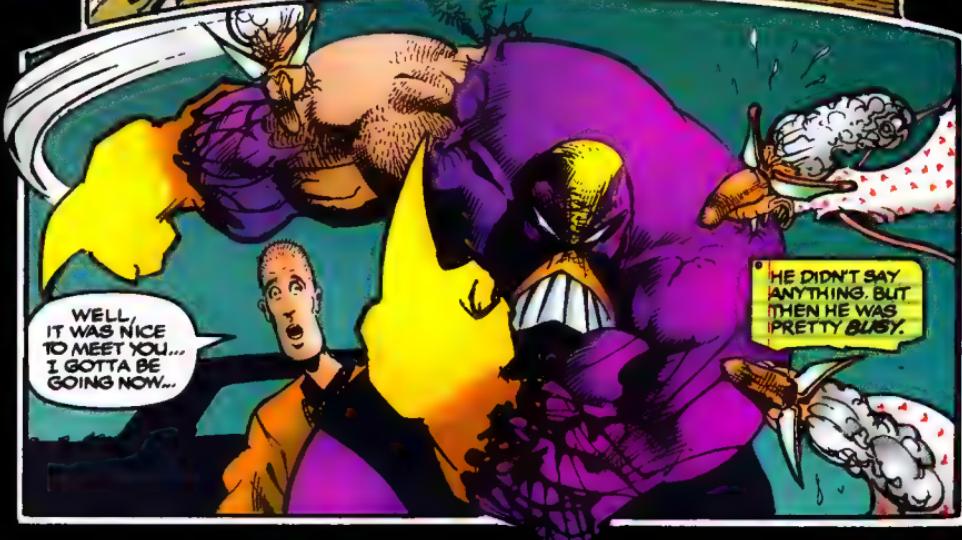
WIMP!

NEVER
DO THAT
AGAIN!

BROTHER,
NOTHING'S
EASY.

UHM...DO
YOU WANT ME
TO CALL FOR AN
AMBULANCE OR
SOMETHING?

OUCHIE.



I GUESS HE'S
THE SORT OF GUY
THINGS HAPPEN
TO ALL THE TIME.

III

YAAAAAA!

TOO...
MANY...
CAN'T FIGHT
THEM ALL...

BLACKING
OUT... LOST TOO
MUCH BLOOD...
PAIN... HAVE TO
FIND... JULIA...

BIG C

I GOTTA
DATE WITH
AN ANGEL...

AH-
HA!

AND THAT
SHOULD
COVER YOU
NICELY.

AFTER ALL,
WE DON'T WANT
THE LOCALS
SEEING GRANNIES
CLIPPING TRASH
BINS BY THEIR
TEETH...

THERE!

CRUNCH!

ESCAPED!

IT FEELS
GOOD TO RUN
AND LEAP
AGAIN!

TO FEEL
THE SOFT
LOAM
UNDER MY
HEELS!

BAD
DOLL.

TO KNOW
THAT I AM
KING IN
THIS SAV-
AGE PLACE
...BUT EVEN
A KING
MUST HAVE
HIS JUNGLE
QUEEN!

IF I CAN
JUST FIND
HER, THEN
EVERYTHING
WILL BE
ALL RIGHT...

THERE
SHE IS...BUT
CHANGED...

EVEN HER VOICE
IS DIFFERENT.

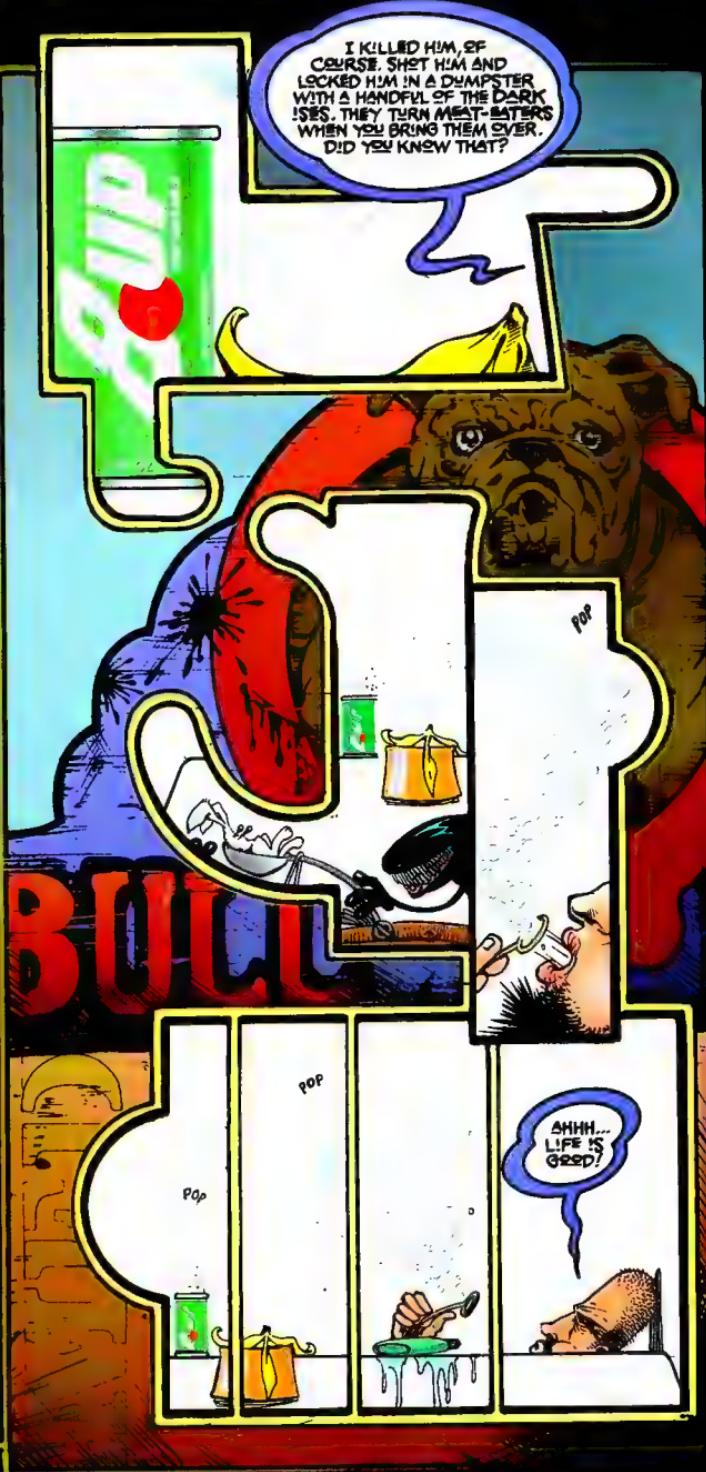
WHAT HAS
HAPPENED
TO HER?

THIS IS A
BAD DOLL -
IT KEEPS
TELLING ME
THINGS I
DON'T WANT
TO HEAR!

AND IF THIS
BAD DOLL
DOESN'T SHUT
UP, I'M GOING
TO BRUSH ITS
HAIR RIGHT
OUT!



ELSEWHERE, ON THE
PASTEL, DECAYING,
ART DECO SIDE OF
TOWN...



THE ISSUES
ARE PRETTY
'INTERESTING...

SPLAT!

DID YOU
KNOW THAT TO
HUMANS THEY
APPEAR AS
WHATEVER YOU
DRESS THEM
AS?

THAT'S WHY
I SET UP SHOP
IN THIS OLD
COSTUME
WAREHOUSE...
PRETTY
CLEVER, EH?

OF COURSE,
THE BULLDOG
JAR RUBBER
FACTORY
UPSTAIRS STILL
SMELLS OF
DECAYING
RUBBER...

BUT I
THINK THAT
JUST ADDS
TO THE
AMBIENCE,
DIDN'T YOU?

NOT THAT
YOU'RE IN ANY
POSITION TO
COMPLAIN...

IN FACT,
I CAN DO
ANYTHING
TO YOU I
WANT...



IF
ALL THIS
BAROQUE
POSTUR-
ING IS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
THREAT-
ENING ME, IT'S
PRETTY
LAME-O.

I MEAN,
YOU CAN
KILL ME,
SURE...

SO CAN EVERY
CRACKHEAD ON
MY BLOCK...BUT
YOU SURE AREN'T
SCARING ME!

A TOOTH...
FROM ONE OF
THOSE LITTLE
MONSTERS
HE KEEPS
AROUND...
MUST BE
SHARP!



TRUST
ME. YOU
WILL
FEAR
ME!

I
DOUBT
IT.

YOU DON'T
HAVE A CLUE
WHO I AM.

KEEP HIM
TALKING... SAW
THROUGH THESE
STRAPS...

BUT I
CAN SEE
THROUGH
YOU LIKE
GLASS,
PAL!

YOU THINK
I DON'T KNOW
YOU? I'VE
STALKED
YOU!

SO? YOU
SEE ME AS
SOME LITTLE
MISS PERFECT
...SOME
MADONNA TO
BE SEDUCED
AND
ABSORBED!

ACTUALLY, I'M
PRETTY FLAWED. I'VE
GOT A FAT STOMACH AND
CHAFF MARKS WHERE MY
JEANS CUT IN AND BAD
BREATH FROM EATING THE
WRONG STUFF! AND MY
UNDERARMS ARE
STUBBLY!

YOU'VE
GOT A
PROBLEM
WITH
WOMEN!



HOW PERCEPTIVE!
DID YOU FIGURE
THAT OUT WHEN
I KIDNAPPED
YOU... OR WHEN
I TIED YOU UP
WITH LEATHER
STRAPS?

OF COURSE
I'VE GOT
A PROBLEM
WITH
WOMEN!

EVERYONE
HAS A PROBLEM
WITH WOMEN...
BECAUSE WOMEN
TAUNT AND TEASE!
BECAUSE THEY ARE
ATTRACTIVE AND
THEN THEY PUNISH
YOU FOR BEING
ATTRACTED!

DO YOU
DENY IT?
AFTER ALL, I'M
NOT THE ONE
WHO WEARS
UNDERWEAR
OUTSIDE HER
CLOTHES!

YOU CLAIM
TO BE A "PRE-SEX
FEMINIST"? YOU
QUOTE CAMILLE
PAGLIA... ENDLESSLY,
I MIGHT ADD.



BUT WOULD A
FEMINIST OF ANY
STRIP BE SO
DELIBERATELY
RISK-TAKING? OR
ARE YOU ONLY A
FEMINIST WHEN
IT SUITS YOU?

YOU DROPPED OUT
OF COLLEGE, SET UP THIS
"FREE-LANCE SOCIAL
WORK" OF YOURS, STARTED
BAILING PEOPLE OUT OF
JAIL, TRYING TO REFORM
THEM...

YOU'RE
NEARLY BROKE,
SURROUNDED BY
DANGEROUS,
DESPERATE
MEN... AND LOOK
WHERE IT'S
GETTING YOU!

SO THIS
IS MY
FAULT?

YOU BROKE
INTO MY LOCKED
HOUSE AND
KIDNAPPED ME!
THIS HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH THE
CLOTHES I
WEAR!

THIS HAS TO
DO WITH THE FACT
THAT YOU'RE **TWISTED**
AS A CORKSCREW, AND
LOOKING TO FIND
SOMEONE... WOMEN,
FEMINISM, PAGLIA,
ME... TO BLAME IT
ON!



SURE I TEST THE LIMITS... SO WHAT? QUIT WHINING LIKE A BROKEN DOLL AND GET ON WITH IT!

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT? I CAN TELL YOU THINGS, JULIE WINTERS, THINGS YOU'VE TRIED TO FORGET.

THINGS ABOUT ME, YOURSELF... EVEN THE MAXX. THIS WHOLE ELABORATE FICTION YOU'VE BUILT UP TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE TRUTH.

THIS DOLL IS TELLING ME THINGS I DON'T WANT TO HEAR! AND IF IT DOESN'T SHUT UP...

DO YOU REMEMBER SPIRIT ANIMALS, JULIE? DO YOU REMEMBER...?

I'M GONNA BRUSH ITS HEAD RIGHT OFF!

...GETTING YOUR OWN SPIRIT ANIMAL? DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE? WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE?

AND WHAT THE ANIMAL'S NAME WAS?

IF THIS DOLL DOESN'T SHUT UP...!

...I'M GONNA
BRUSH AND
BRUSH AND
BRUSH...

YOU WERE NEVER
ABLE TO ACCEPT THE
OTHER PLANE, JULIE...
NEVER ABLE TO REVEL IN
IT LIKE I AM...INSTEAD
YOU HIDE IN THIS FANTASY!
REMEMBER, JULIE?
IT'S...

UNTIL I
BRUSH OFF
ITS...

...ALL IN
YOUR...



DEAD.

I AWOKE FROM
THE DAYDREAM
OF THE WILD
PLACE AND
TEETH WERE AT
MY THROAT!

SO I AWOKE AND
SLEW. BUT JULIE
IS STILL KIDNAPPED
AND THE JUNGLE
QUEEN IS INSANE!

I DIDN'T
PROTECT
EITHER OF
THEM. I
FAILED.

I WISH IT WAS TIME
FOR CHEERS, BUT
IT'S NOT. IT'S TIME
FOR VENGEANCE!

NEXT MONTH
JUNGLE FLOWERS GROWN IN
BLOOD!



HEY, MAXX-HEADS! Sam here...Listen up!! You can stop with the column name ideas — the winner is...TY KELLER! with — well, just look above! A lot of people mentioned 'Maxx Traxx', but he was the first. So one copy of a Glowing Maxx #1 is in the mail, along with a pin-up of The Hulk. (I know, I know, this is the Maxx, but I just wanted to draw The Hulk today. Marvel won't mind, as long as we don't print it here...)

Everyone's asking for glow-in-the-dark Maxxes, but I'm fresh out — remember, Ty Keller's got my copy. Your best bet is to hit up your local comic shop owner.

Couple more things. Reuben Rude's name was left on the credits to Maxx #1 instead of off, and Kevin Cunningham's name was left off instead of on. Oops. Also, a couple people asked if I'm selling original art. Thanks, but I'm holding onto it for now.

Anyway, here's some stuff that people wrote:



Probably the best Maxx drawing that I have ever seen. - Sam

Sam,
Does The Maxx ever stand up straight?
Dan Beckwith
Kent, Ohio

No.

Sam,
1. Was The Incredible Hulk #368 your first time working with Marvel Comics?
2. Will the Maxx ever fight Pitt?
John Wolfe
Hawthorne, New Jersey

1. Yup.
2. I hope not — Pitt would probably kill him.

Sam,

You should name your letter column "Bill", "the reply", or "far". It should definitely be a verb like eat or slurp. In general, there are far too few letter columns named after verbs (as well as names). Reading The Maxx made me happy. I was absorbed by your stylistic sense of visual movement like that of a movie. At the end, I [finger hurts] was left wanting more, and I hope you keep [gotta call Scott] with your pledge that the Maxx will come [I wonder if he reads this] out when you say it will. The dialogue was fantastic, it was completely quirky and full of life. I look forward [gotta clean the pad before everyone comes over tonight] to future issues. [Oh Crap! I was writing out loud!]

John Curtis

Oak Park, Illinois

Sam,

I really loved Maxx #1. It had the most coolest drawings. I like looking at ugly super-heroes all the time.

Vincent Marquez

San Diego, California

You want ugly art? You came to the right place! You ain't ever gonna get uglier than The Maxx.

Sam,

Damn! You guys kicked some booth with The Maxx. Nathin' can touch the story line or the art. The story is awesome, it brings reality and imagination into one — THE MAXX.

Gregory O.

Northridge, California

Hey Sam,

I just bought your comic, The Maxx and I want to say it's one of the better Image comics that I have. The way you draw, your people have sort of a



uniqueness to them. Personally, I like the bellbottoms because I'm sort of into that 14-year-old hippie stage.

[name withheld]

Thanx - a lot of older folks don't dig bellbottoms, but I don't care. To me, they're so uncool, they're cool!

Sam,

Greetings and Salutations! Congratulations on your new book! As soon as I heard your book was out I ran to my nearest comic shop, bust down their door, pushed aside all of the nosepickin' vacant-eyed gaping mouthed speculator-collectors and grabbed a copy. As I feverishly fumbled my way through the pages, devouring the artwork, I notice something. THE COLOR IS AMAZING!!! My highest possible commendation to Steve Oliff and Olyoptics.

I believe that in the past your art has been restrained by poor production qualities. I think that this book will be a stage for the masses to watch a great artist evolve into a better picture artist. But enough about the art, the writing is good too!! The twelve page fight scenes, the long-winded speeches concerning origins, just a good way to live in a Maxx and happens to be purple and a few and have one hell of an overbite.

Phlem Master Weenie

AKA The Gender Khan

AKA Charles B. Roberson III

P.S. I still don't like bellbottoms.

P.S. I still don't care.

Dear Sam Kiehl,

I'm not going to say I'm a big fan of comic books. My boyfriend's a big fan and collector and he always lets me read his comic books. I always give them back to him and tell him they suck. Except for The Maxx book. I read it and thought it was great. So great in fact, that I'm going to start collecting Maxx books and items. The graphics are incredible and the writing is terrific.

Thanks,

Kamilah Boddie

Sacramento, California

Sam,

Finally a hero that is more realistic! The Maxx's home is great, The Maxx's face is great, and the The Maxx's feet are great. But one thing...bellbottoms!!! (Please stop!) The Maxx surprised me, I thought that he would be some great hero with great superpowers. Instead I get a bum from the alley with an ugly face and BIG FEET! I LOVE IT! KEEP IT UP.

Ajax

Bronx, New York

But wait - you like all the other unfashionable parts of The Maxx - bum, alley, ugly face, and big feet. We'll keep bellbottoms as long as they're unfashionable! OK?

Sam,

1. Could The Maxx's alter ego, Br'er Lappin, possibly be a reference to Br'er Rabbit of Disney fame?

2. How would I get a copy of a dark edition of The Maxx?

3. Just exactly who is Maxx's alter ego?

Your faithful fan,

Mari Edler

Allentown, New Jersey

Sam,

1. I have a lot of money and be good pals with a comic book store owner, or both.

2. Is he hairy everywhere?

Hey Sam,

What happens to Maxx's hair? I kind of like him with his long mane in his dream sequence. Does someone scalp him or is his hair under his costume?

2. What's with Australia? Is he a mutant Australian or something?

3. Why the babe? (Don't get me wrong, Mike

Frank Russo

Woodside, New York

1. That's no man's hair. It's his. It's like a straw head dress with the hair in the real world, his hair is short.

2. O.K.

3. I like her too - that's why he babe.

Dear Mr. Maxx,

I have questions!!

1. Is Maxx able to leap over small buildings in a single bound?

2. Is he faster than a speeding bullet?

3. Is he stronger than a runaway locomotive?

4. Isn't it true that Maxx is actually Superman attempting to lay low for a while after his death, in an elaborate scheme to cheat the life insurance company? Keep doodlin' those feet!!

"Just for Kicks"

Jeff Watson

Wasilla, Alaska

1. No.

2. No.

3. No.

4. Maybe... (Another foot one! What is it with these guys and feet?)

Sam,

I really like your work..I just have one question for you: When The Maxx goes to sleep, why does he go to Australia and grow hair and feathers?

Thank you,
Casey Hendley
Melbourne, Florida

Another hair one! That's NOT his hair, OK? OK?
Geeezz!!



Sam,

Man oh man, you guys at Image can sure pack a wallop! Jus' picked up Maxx #1, it's all I've wanted and more, as are all the titles in the Image line. The babe is hot, Maxx is wild and the story

seems wide open. I can't wait to see where you're taking us next. Here it coming Man, it's hot, Hot, Hot. Just to let you know, you guys are kicking Marvel's AX&II!

Dan B.
Boca Raton, Florida

I guess I could say something politically correct here about how Image has stepped up to the task between Marvel and Image, but I don't think anyone's saying that anymore, are they?

Dear Sam,
Keep on doing the good job. I really like the style on Julie Winters with the bellbottoms. Next time have her with a tie dye shirt on.

Jared Bautista
Stockton, California

Native Work - You are the best
bellbottom head, best, best

Sam,
1. Why are Maxx's teeth shaped so funny?
2. Is that his costume?
3. How come Maxx #1 came out before Darker Image?
4. Does Maxx have any superpowers?

Your fan,
Eugene Wang
Fanwood, New Jersey

1. 'Cause they're easier to draw that way.
2. Yes. Subtle, huh? Purple tights blend right in with the crowd. (That's why Julie gave him a raincoat in #1.)
3. Because we screwed up. Don't worry - the stories in Darker Image are not directly connected to Maxx #1. And if we did our job

right, they can be read in any order...

4. If you count that his mask feeds off of his face. And the claws! Other than that, he's an average guy.

Sam,

1. Does The Maxx have lips?
2. What, or who, is making that "chung" sound? What does it signify?
3. Any cross-overs or "guests" lined up?
4. How big is The Maxx (height, weight?)

Alex Hunter
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

1. No. And I can't believe you just asked.
2. "Chung" means Maxx has a headache.
3. The Dragon shows up in a couple of pages, and maybe something else...
4. Height: short. Weight: heavy.

Hey Sam,

1. Where the hell can I obtain a Comics "Primer" #5 with The Maxx's first appearance? Do they even exist?! (Not in Arizona, they don't.)
2. Is that Maxx's teeth or a mask - Geezz?

Pompeo, Balbo
Scottsdale, Arizona

1. I don't know...they're pretty rare. I think there's about 4-5,000 out there. I would ask dealers at conventions or check back-issue bins at stores with used comics.
2. It's the mask's "teeth", Pomp.

Sam,

Are we ever going to see The Maxx's face without the mask over it?

Scott Kimbrough
Austin, Texas

I haven't decided yet. What do you guys think - should we never see Maxx's face?

Dear Sam and Bill,

I feel as if I have befriended the two of you over the past four years. If you think I'm talking Epicurus the Sage, you're absolutely right! The only reason I'm writing this letter is that if it gets printed, it might prompt others to throttle their store-owners until they get a copy.

Epicurus the Sage is one of the most amusing, canny, cool, crazy, funny, realistic, education (Hey! Remember it's cool too), dynamic, sexual (that should make the adult fans buy it), and reasonable satire of Greek philosophers ever made...Loeb's and Kieth created an environment that clearly displays the ideas of Socrates, Plato and other Greek greats. For those in high school, they make great cliff-notes

for a Greek history class. Kieth's art jumps off the page; each panel and character demonstrates his appreciation for detail and individuality. Loeb's writing kicks tail.

Why am I writing about Epicurus? Because The Maxx is just as good! Dammit! Let's look at issue #1. The standard fantastic job Image and Olympics does with the colors is evident. From the blood on the cover to the solid gold "M" on page one, the hues capture and enchant the eye. Hell, they make the dirty alley look like a dirty alley! Mike Heisler's lettering warps your mind as you read. His choice of bold-face allows us to hear the voices of the characters. Damn! Maybe he thinks his job is more than rote copying. The grass in the captions are cool, too.



Loeb's, you know you're good. I don't know what to say about the dialogue you weave beyond: it's real as can be. (Did you come up with the *Cheers* reference on page #1? It reads like you.)

Kieth, page ten puts the last hundred issues of *X-men* to shame. This book embodies everything unique in your style. Your quirky paneling never seems to confuse the reader. There's nothing left to be said about your big feet. You know what I mean. The art is fluid and pulsing. This one's the winner.

To answer your question, I read the licensing label on the inside cover because I was reeeeally bored.

Once again, both of you deserve all of the acclaim you're receiving. I can't wait for The Maxx's tale to unfold.

Eager for another four years,
Mike Rubin
Morristown, New Jersey

Wow.

Sam,
Who's the dude with the cape?
Christopher Shea
Worcester, Massachusetts

Mr. Gone! But by now you already know that...

Dear Sam,

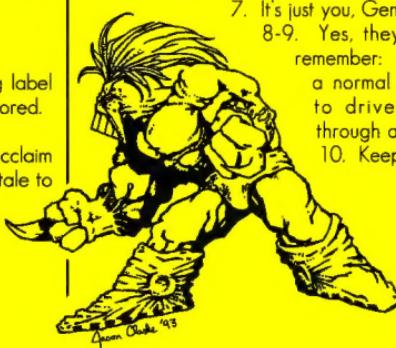
1. Where does Maxx come from?
2. Who is Mr. Gone and how does he know Maxx?
3. What's with the obscene phone calls that Julia has been getting?
4. Speaking of Julia, what's her problem any way? Why is she so cold?
5. What's an lsz?
6. Are you ever gonna take off the Maxx's mask?
7. Is it just me or is Maxx giving everyone the finger?
8. Are those claws?
9. If so, could they cut through anything?
10. Will The Maxx and Julia ever get together?
Until The Maxx stands straight, make mine Image!

Gene Brice
Brooklyn, New York

1. Keep reading.
2. Maxx's arch rival. Gone is the only one who can travel freely between both worlds, and he is the only one who doesn't forget the real world when he enters the outback.
3. Mr. Gone is a bit socially dysfunctional, but he's working on it.
4. This issue should explain that Julie's got many things buried inside that make her appear cold.
5. Good question. This issue has half the answer, and the next issue has the other half! By the way, one "ls" is an "ls", and two of 'em make "lsz" (pronounced "iss-uss").
6. That could be tricky, since the mask is alive and tends to eat off the fingers of anyone who tries to remove it? Also, there's those nasty dreams Maxx keeps having, that he's something other than normal under there.
7. It's just you, Gene.

8-9. Yes, they're claws, but remember: Maxx only has a normal man's strength to drive those claws through anything.

10. Keep on reading...



Dear Sam Kieth,

Your comic, Maxx, is one of the best that I have ever seen. The story is great and the art is totally cool...I'm very glad that you decided to name your book after my dog. He loves to read your comic. In fact, he has his own copy ever since he stepped on mine and ripped the cover off. I guess I'll leave you alone so you can keep up the most eexxcceellleent work.

Sam's #1 (approx.) Fan,

Dan Marcus

Niles, Illinois

P.S. Can you tell me how I could get one or two of your ashcan books?

P.P.S. My dog says "Ruff Ruff Grrrr, Bark."



Unless we blew it, there should be an ad for them in this issue. Otherwise, send requests to Bowe and Board, 9180 East Indian Bend Road, F10, Scottsdale, Arizona 85250.

Dear Sam,

Is it just me or is the similarity between The Leopard Queen and Julie Winters something else?

Andy Hsu
Providence, Rhode Island

No, Andy, it's not just you! The Jungle Queen and Julie are the same person! When we see the modern world, that's through Julie's eyes, and the outback is through Maxx's eyes. Also, there's only one Maxx. I know - it's confusing, but it gets clearer...I think...

Dear Sam,

Maxx is awesome! I loved the stories in Darker Image and The Maxx and the art is incredible. I can't compare this book to any other that I've read! It's so weird, I love it! The social worker is hot as balls! (Can I say that?) The colors in this comic are excellent. I read your interview in Wizard 20. MAN! When you say you'll draw big feet, you really draw big feet! I also read that the dude with the cape is called Mr. Gone. That guy is wicked! (He looks like a totem-pole with a cape!) This comic is really original, and in case I didn't explain it in the above context, I'm very impressed!

Matt Mahan
Arcadia, Oklahoma

TOTEM-POLE?

Dear Sam,

I just finished reading The Maxx #1 and I must say that now that you're doing your own book, you have definitely redefined the darker and more gruesome comic character...Compliment Bill on his great dialogue job; he added all the right phrases at all the right times.

David Bird

Fredericksburg, Virginia

AMEN.

Dear Sam,

Wow, Wow, WOW! What an awesome work of art. Maxx is one of the best comics I have ever read. Hey Kieth, are you really human? "Cause there ain't no way a regular guy can accomplish what you've achieved in Maxx #1. It blows all the other comics out of the water.

Maxx is not your everyday bland superhero, but a guy with a ferocity of emotions. It is intense how you delve into the psychology of the guy. And let me tell you, a lot of comics try to develop their characters that way, but they don't compare to The Maxx.

Finally we have a comic with awesome artwork and a great story line to go with it. Hey, make mine Maxx any and every time, baby!

Your devoted Fan For Life.

Johny O.
Northridge,
California



Dear Sam,

Being the old fashioned sort whose preferred reading includes old farts like Peter Bagge, the Hernandez Brothers and Chester Brown, I feel a bit out of my league commenting on these new-fangled action comics. There's so much byzantine intensity in the layouts - I keep flipping through the book try-

ing to figure out if those odd-shaped panels spell out secret messages or not. "Buy More Tang" maybe?

Everything looks so cool and groovy. You've done an excellent job of establishing your hero's presence, if nothing else — this great curled up shape, powerful but slumbering... Not having seen any previous appearances of *The Maxx*, I have no idea whether there's a normal human inside the suit. I get the impression he's an alien brought to this dimension, but he also seems to have a lot of characteristics of an earth elemental, even his muttering (which is great, by the way) — the last line of the book actually made me laugh out loud, quite a feat considering that I'd spent the previous two hours putting together a chest of drawers and smashing my thumbs to atoms with a hammer.)

Okay, on to the women. If you hadn't mentioned it, I doubt that I'd pick up on the Camille Paglia thing... the Frazetta thing, I go, but the Paglia was more oblique. Coincidentally, I just got the new *Vanity Fair* and was reading the cover story on Sharon Stone. It seems both Paglia and Naomi Wolfe (author of *The Beauty Myth*) loved Stone in *Basic Instinct* (which I've yet to see), since she isn't afraid to use the power of her sexuality. Judy seems to fit into the same mold, although just why she dresses like a hooker, and then denies it, is still unexplained. So far, all we know is that she dresses in body conscious clothing, and thinks that women get raped we're "asking for it" through their stupid behavior. I take it that in Judy's world, the defin-

ition of "asking for it" does not include wearing fishnet panties. (Not that I'm saying that it should, but I wouldn't wear them down to the car wash, if you know what I mean.) Perhaps she is in for just a bit of a comeuppance?

On the surface you seem to have created yet another book where women who flaunt their sexuality are horribly murdered. (Even Glorie, who is not conventionally beautiful by any means, wears what most would label "skimpy" clothing and is portrayed as a sex object, at least in Tommy's mind.) This is the oldest trick in the book, and most men (and some women) do it unconsciously. I think you are doing it consciously. Just watch out for those gratuitously badly dressed women.

Three things before I go:

1. Great coloring.
2. Great lettering (The CHUNG! CHUNG! running through the first section was reminiscent of Ken Bruzenak at his best.)
3. Page...uh...hey put in page #s for cripes' sake...Page 18, panel 4, "I hurt, Tommy". This is a classic Claremontism, and no one is allowed to use it anymore, so watch it, okay?

Heidi McDonald

Somewhere in L.A.

Thanx, Heidi — I can use the help! We'll watch our P's and Q's and work on it. You know, we need some more feedback on the stories. Are they sexist? Exploitational? Write ASAP!

- Later



KALLING ALL KIETH KOLLECTORS!

... And you know who you are! Before snappy Sam rocketed to superstardom with *The Maxx*, before he turned heads with his work on *Wolverine*, before even *Sandman*, he created hundreds of pages' worth of wild 'n' woolly stuff for small-press and alternative comics. *I Before E* collects Sam's early, obscure horror, sci-fi, and humor work, in two issues totaling over 100 pages of comics and artwork, including the very earliest incarnation of *The Maxx*, and featuring an intro by *Maxx* scribe Bill Messner-Loebs! Each issue is available for \$5.50 postpaid, or both for \$10.00! Send check or money order to Fantagraphics Books, 7563 Lake City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115 and allow four to six weeks for delivery of your comics. NOTE: Since Sam's earliest work could be a little raunchy, we must ask that you be 18 YEARS OR OLDER to order, and include an age statement!